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APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/549,714

FILING DATE: *March 03, 2004*

RELATED PCT APPLICATION NUMBER: PCT/US05/06374



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15541 U.S. PTO
030304

PTO/SB/16 (01-04)

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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

Express Mail Label No. EV 290542467 US

| INVENTOR(S) | | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|--|---|--|
| Given Name (first and middle (if any)) | | Family Name or Surname | | Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country) | |
| Paul | | Stoeppelwerth | | Alpharetta, Georgia | |
| Additional inventors are being named on the _____ separately numbered sheets attached hereto | | | | | |
| TITLE OF THE INVENTION (500 characters max) | | | | | |
| CONDUIT MANAGER AND IMPROVED CONDUIT RECEIVING MANIFOLD | | | | | |
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| Country | | Telephone | | Fax | |
| ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply) | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification Number of Pages 24 | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CD(s), Number _____ | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) Number of Sheets 2 | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) Return postcard | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76 | | | | | |
| METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fees. | | | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached. | | | | | |
| FILING FEE Amount (\$) 80.00 | | | | | |
| The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government. | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are: _____ | | | | | |

[Page 1 of 2]

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE

Paul E. Knowlton

TYPED or PRINTED NAME Paul E. Knowlton

TELEPHONE 404-739-8800

Date March 3, 2004

REGISTRATION NO. 44,842

(if appropriate)

Docket Number: ST319/000ST

USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.51. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 8 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop Provisional Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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15541
030304
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for FY 2004

Effective 10/01/2003. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

☒ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$)
80.00**Complete if Known**

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Application Number | |
| Filing Date | |
| First Named Inventor | Paul Stoeppelwerth |
| Examiner Name | |
| Art. Unit | |
| Attorney Docket No. | ST319/000ST |

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☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☐ Credit any overpayments☒ Charge any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s)☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account.**FEE CALCULATION****1. BASIC FILING FEE**

| Large Entity | | Small Entity | | Fee Description | Fee Paid |
|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| Fee Code | Fee (\$) | Fee Code | Fee (\$) | | |
| 1001 | 770 | 2001 | 385 | Utility filing fee | |
| 1002 | 340 | 2002 | 170 | Design filing fee | |
| 1003 | 530 | 2003 | 265 | Plant filing fee | |
| 1004 | 770 | 2004 | 385 | Reissue filing fee | |
| 1005 | 160 | 2005 | 80 | Provisional filing fee | 80.00 |

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$)
80.00**2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE**

| Total Claims | Extra Claims | Fee from below | Fee Paid |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|----------|
| Independent Claims | -20** = | X | |
| Multiple Dependent | -3** = | X | |

| Large Entity | | Small Entity | | Fee Description | Fee Paid |
|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|--|----------|
| Fee Code | Fee (\$) | Fee Code | Fee (\$) | | |
| 1202 | 18 | 2202 | 9 | Claims in excess of 20 | |
| 1201 | 86 | 2201 | 43 | Independent claims in excess of 3 | |
| 1203 | 290 | 2203 | 145 | Multiple dependent claim, if not paid | |
| 1204 | 86 | 2204 | 43 | ** Reissue independent claims over original patent | |
| 1205 | 18 | 2205 | 9 | ** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent | |

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$)
-0-

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)**3. ADDITIONAL FEES**

Large Entity - Small Entity

| Large Entity | | Small Entity | | Fee Description | Fee Paid |
|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|--|----------|
| Fee Code | Fee (\$) | Fee Code | Fee (\$) | | |
| 1051 | 130 | 2051 | 65 | Surcharge - late filing fee or oath | |
| 1052 | 50 | 2052 | 25 | Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet | |
| 1053 | 130 | 1053 | 130 | Non-English specification | |
| 1812 | 2,520 | 1812 | 2,520 | For filing a request for ex parte reexamination | |
| 1804 | 920* | 1804 | 920* | Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action | |
| 1805 | 1,840* | 1805 | 1,840* | Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action | |
| 1251 | 110 | 2251 | 55 | Extension for reply within first month | |
| 1252 | 420 | 2252 | 210 | Extension for reply within second month | |
| 1253 | 950 | 2253 | 475 | Extension for reply within third month | |
| 1254 | 1,480 | 2254 | 740 | Extension for reply within fourth month | |
| 1255 | 2,010 | 2255 | 1,005 | Extension for reply within fifth month | |
| 1401 | 330 | 2401 | 165 | Notice of Appeal | |
| 1402 | 330 | 2402 | 165 | Filing a brief in support of an appeal | |
| 1403 | 290 | 2403 | 145 | Request for oral hearing | |
| 1451 | 1,510 | 1451 | 1,510 | Petition to institute a public use proceeding | |
| 1452 | 110 | 2452 | 55 | Petition to revive - unavoidable | |
| 1453 | 1,330 | 2453 | 665 | Petition to revive - unintentional | |
| 1501 | 1,330 | 2501 | 665 | Utility issue fee (or reissue) | |
| 1502 | 480 | 2502 | 240 | Design issue fee | |
| 1503 | 640 | 2503 | 320 | Plant issue fee | |
| 1460 | 130 | 1460 | 130 | Petitions to the Commissioner | |
| 1807 | 50 | 1807 | 50 | Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q) | |
| 1806 | 180 | 1806 | 180 | Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt | |
| 8021 | 40 | 8021 | 40 | Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties) | |
| 1809 | 770 | 2809 | 385 | Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a)) | |
| 1810 | 770 | 2810 | 385 | For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b)) | |
| 1801 | 770 | 2801 | 385 | Request for Continued Examination (RCE) | |
| 1802 | 900 | 1802 | 900 | Request for expedited examination of a design application | |

Other fee (specify)

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$)
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| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------|--------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Paul E. Knowlton | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 44,842 | Telephone | 440-739-8800 |
| Signature | Paul E. Knowlton (MA) | | | Date | 3/3/2004 |

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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

EV290542467US

Inventor: Paul Stoeppelwerth.

Title: CONDUIT MANAGER AND IMPROVED CONDUIT RECEIVING
MANIFOLD

Atty. Docket: ST319/000ST

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Enclosures:

- Provisional Application for Patent Cover Sheet
- Provisional Patent Application including:
 - 24 sheets of specification
 - 2 sheets of drawings
- Fee Transmittal
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5 **CONDUIT MANAGER AND IMPROVED CONDUIT RECEIVING MANIFOLD**
PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION

10 **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

 The present invention relates to a conduit manager, and, more particularly, to a receiving manifold with a conduit manager that gathers, stores and protects the conduits while providing a protective cover over the connection points at the manifold, such as the electrical cords, plugs and structure associated with a power supply strip.

15

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

 It is to be understood, that the term "conduit" used herein, including in the claims, includes all manner of cords, cables, lines, wires, hoses, filaments, pipes, tubes, ribbons, tape and the like, whether flexible or rigid, associated in any way with supplying or receiving electrical, mechanical, chemical, pneumatic, hydraulic, and the like subject matter. In addition, the term "manifold" used herein, including in the claims, is used in the broadest sense to include any chamber or device with an outlet for supplying or receiving said subject matter.

20

It is all too common that a power supply is simply a mass of cords, including those having two-prong plugs, grounded plugs, power converters and the like. The mass of cords pose issues of frustration and safety to surrounding persons and area. Present safety manufacturing has recognized the safety concern of the mass of cords from one power strip. For example, there
5 exists a power strip cover that encases the power strip with a center slot through which individual cords can exit. One purpose behind this is to prevent a small child from accessing electrical plugs and outlets. Another purpose of the apparatus is forced organization of the cords due to the center slot's width.

Another example of an attempt to provide a cord manager discloses a method and kit for
10 securing cord connections to an electronic device by sitting an electronic device on a flexible pad and securing the connecting cords to the pad. In this manner, the cords are organized and secured. Another attempt to organize and secure cords includes a resilient fabric pack comprising attached pockets, with closures, through which outlets or apertures used in running a computer may exit. However, what is not disclosed by devices or otherwise known is a
15 reference that teaches organizing, securing and storing a plurality of conduits, together with a manifold, and providing a protective cover over the entire assembly. Thus, a need exists in the field of conduit management to address these deficiencies and inadequacies.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

20 FIG. 1 is a side view of an embodiment of the present invention having a power strip with an attached conduit management apparatus;

FIG. 2 is a top view of an embodiment of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 3 is an interior view of the conduit management apparatus of FIG. 1.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

One embodiment of the present invention is a conduit manager that gathers, stores and protects conduits while also protecting the connection points, such as the plugs and associated power connection. Another embodiment of the present invention is a combination of the conduit manager and manifold. In this case, a power supply cable and protective organizing cover.

It will be understood by those skilled in the art that the conduit manager and manifold described herein is applicable in a litany of industries and applications. By way of example and not limitation, the present invention may be applied in the medical, hospital or healthcare industries in conjunction with tubes carrying fluids or gases connected to equipment or wall outlets; in the communications industries in conjunction with electrical cords connected to equipment or wall outlets; in the computing and data processing environment with routing cables connected to related equipment; or, in the industrial environment in conjunction with hydraulic or pneumatic hoses connected to supply sources or equipment.

It will be understood the conduit manager may be used by itself to store conduit that is not in use. It will be further understood that the conduit manager may be used to protect connections between conduits, that is, to protect conduits and connections only in the absence of a manifold.

For the purposes of illustration and teaching, and not limitation, the present invention will be described most frequently with reference to an embodiment that comprises a manifold which is an electric power strip.

FIG. 1 is a side view of a conduit manager 10, made in accordance with the present invention, having a power strip 12 with an attached conduit management apparatus 16. The

conduit management apparatus 16 is a protective cover over the power strip 12. As illustrated in FIG. 1, the power strip 12 has a plurality of conduits 18, 20 which are secured to the conduit management apparatus 16 by securing loops 22 and fed out of the conduit manager 10 at an exit point 24. Additionally, as illustrated in FIG. 1, the conduit management apparatus 16 is attached
5 to the power strip base 14 at a plurality of interface points 26, 28.

Furthermore, with respect to the FIGS. 1-3, in this embodiment the materials of manufacture may add novelty to the invention. For example, the conduit management apparatus 16 may be made of a flexible heat and flame resistant material, or breathable material, or tamper-resistant and lockable material. Locks, seals, fasteners and the like may be included to prevent
10 access to the points of connection or manifold. The flexible material here allows the apparatus 16 to cap the power strip 12 as well as to accommodate varying size plugs that may be plugged into the power strip 12. In the illustrated embodiment, this flexible material is flame resistant canvas and fully sealable at all conduit access points.

FIG. 3 illustrates the interior of the conduit management apparatus 16. Specifically, this
15 view illustrates the plurality of securing loops 22, which secure individual conduits 18, 20 for conduit management. Specifically, in the illustrated embodiment the securing loops 22 are Velcro® loops that restrain individual conduits, accepting loops of extra conduit in order to minimize the amount of excess conduit outside the conduit manager 10. It will be understood that other securing mechanisms besides the identified Velcro® could be utilized as securing
20 points 22, including but not limited to elastic loops, clips, clamps, latches, twist ties, spools, snaps, ties and the like. Similarly, any of these means for fastening could be used to close and seal conduit access points.

FIGS. 1 and 2 illustrate that the conduit management apparatus 16 and the power strip 12 are attached at a plurality of interface points 26, 28 on the power strip base 14. In an embodiment shown, the power strip base 14 and the power strip 12 are simply different areas of one power strip housing 30. The interface points 26, 28 are by attachment means between the two components, as the power strip base 14 and the conduit management apparatus 16. As illustrated in FIG. 2 where the conduit management apparatus 16 is in a closed position, the Velcro® is attached to each distal end of the power strip base 14 and similarly to the aligned conduit management apparatus 16. This Velcro® distribution allows for marrying of the power strip base 14 and apparatus 16 to create a Velcro® bond, creating the housing of the conduit manager 10 as the exterior skin of the conduit management apparatus. It is conceived that the conduit management apparatus 16 could simply marry to itself and encapsulate the entire power strip 12, including the power strip base, for conduit management. It is further conceived that a separate base could exist, such as with a non-skid tread, that the apparatus could marry for housing the conduit manager 10.

For further explanation of the components and construction of an exemplary embodiment of a conduit manager made in accordance with the present invention attached hereto is Exhibit A incorporated herein entirely by this reference.

It should be emphasized that the above-described embodiments of the present invention, and any identified preferred embodiments, are merely examples of implementations, used to provide a clear understanding of the present invention. It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that many variations and modifications may also be made to an embodiment described herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. All such variations and modifications are intended to be included herein within the scope of this disclosure.

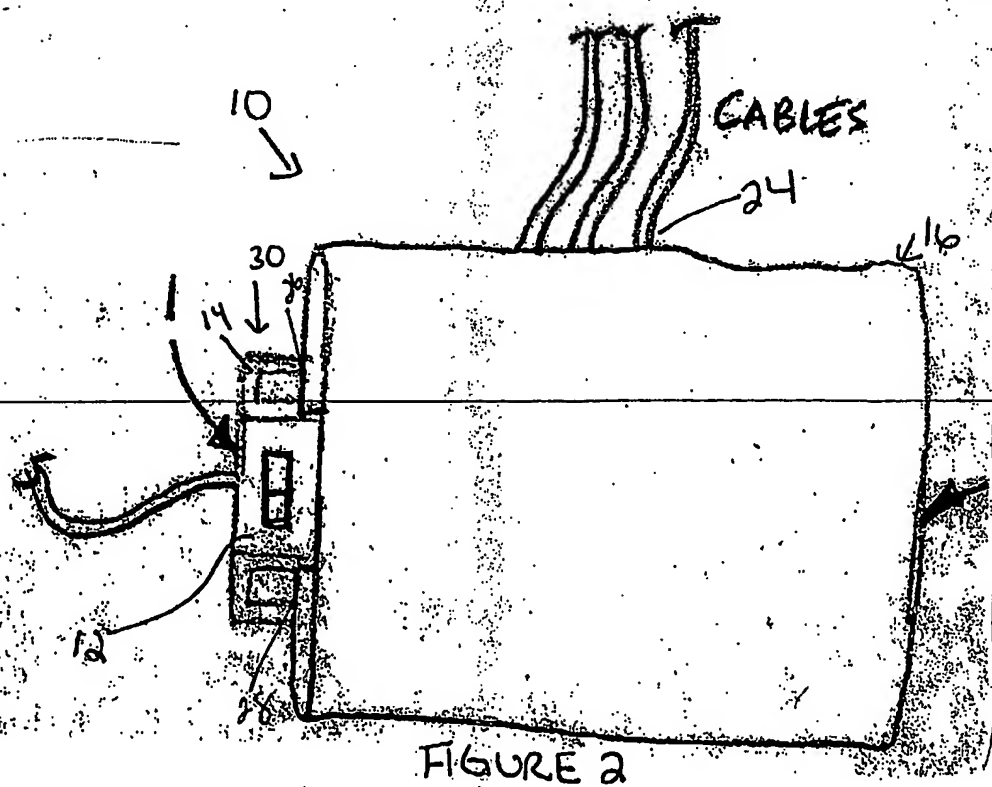
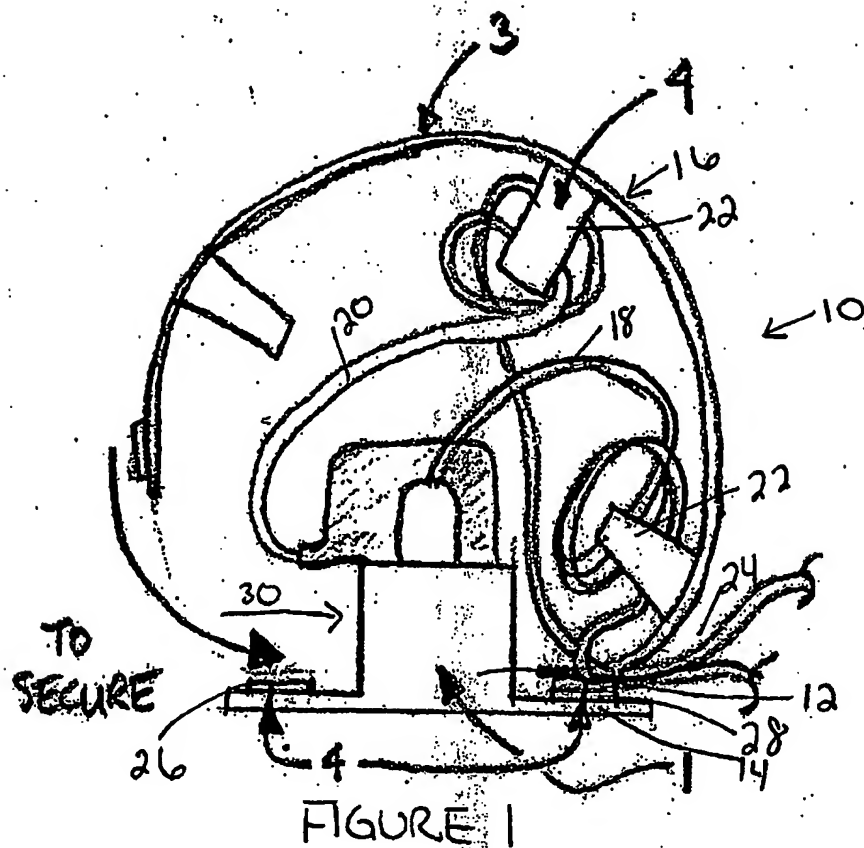
SAMPLE CLAIM

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. In combination with a power supply strip, a cover comprising:
- an exterior surface;
- an interior surface opposite said exterior surface, including means for securing
- power conduits; and
- means for limiting access to said power conduit.

10

ST319:000ST:362191:LOUISVILLE



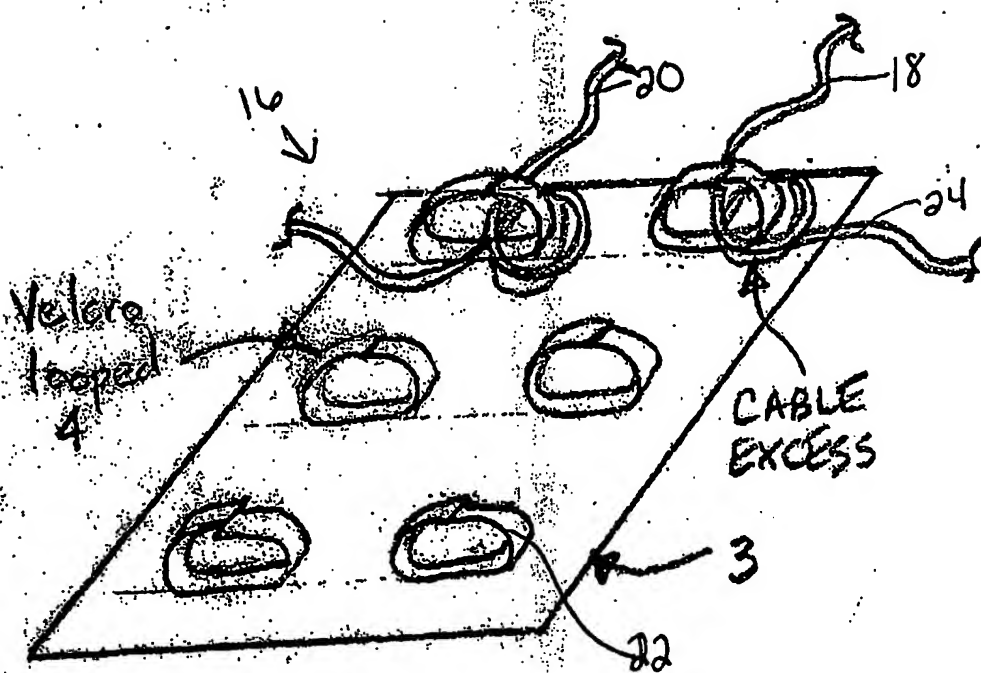


FIGURE 3

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